

In the Claims:

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1. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a recipient during at least one of therapy administration and recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support member having a first coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position of the body of the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a second coupling position of the body of the recipient, the first coupler portion being configured to removably carry a first coupler, wherein the first coupler is movable relative to the first coupler portion between a first carried position with the first coupler carried by the first coupler portion and a first coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the second coupler portion being configured to removably carry a second coupler, wherein the second coupler is movable relative to the second coupler portion between a second carried position with the second coupler carried by the second coupler portion and a second coupled position with the second coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the second coupling position, the support member being spaced apart from the first and second coupling positions when resting on the body of the recipient.

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2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a first engagement member depending from the support member at the first coupler portion and configured to removably engage the first coupler; and
a second engagement member depending from the support member at the second coupler portion and configured to removably engage the second coupler.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the first and second couplers.

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4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
the first coupler, wherein the first coupler has an electrical contact configured to be connected to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient;
and
a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member, the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the first coupler is moved from the first carried position to the first coupled position.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the first coupler and wherein the first coupler is configured to transmit electrical signals to the recipient when the first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

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7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first and second coupler portions are two of a larger plurality of coupler portions, wherein each of the larger plurality of coupler portions are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler portions defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

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8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first coupler portion is positioned closer than the second coupler portion to the first coupling position.

9. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a recipient during at least one of therapy administration and recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising a support member configured to rest on a body of

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the recipient, the support member being elongated along a support member axis and having a first coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position of the body of the recipient when the support member rests on the body of the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a second coupling position of the body of the recipient when the support member rests on the body of the recipient, the first coupler portion being configured to removably carry a first coupler, wherein the first coupler is movable relative to the first coupler portion between a first carried position with the first coupler carried by the first coupler portion and a first coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the second coupler portion being configured to removably carry a second coupler, wherein the second coupler is movable relative to the second coupler portion between a second carried position with the second coupler carried by the second coupler portion and a second coupled position with the second coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the second coupling position, the first coupler portion being positioned closer than the second coupler portion to the support member axis.

10. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
a first engagement member depending from the support member at the first coupler portion and configured to removably engage the first coupler; and
a second engagement member depending from the support member at the second coupler portion and configured to removably engage the second coupler.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising the first and second couplers.

12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
the first coupler, wherein the first coupler has an electrical contact configured to be connected to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient; and

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a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member, the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the first coupler is moved from the first carried position to the first coupled position.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising the first coupler and wherein the first coupler is configured to transmit electrical signals to the recipient when the first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

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15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first and second coupler portions are two of a larger plurality of coupler portions, wherein each of the larger plurality of coupler portions are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler portions defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

16. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a recipient during at least one of therapy administration and recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support member having a first coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position of the body of the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a second coupling position of the body of the recipient, the first coupler portion being configured to removably carry a first coupler, wherein the first coupler is movable relative to the first coupler portion between a first carried position with the first coupler carried by the first coupler portion and a first coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the second coupler

location being configured to removably carry a second coupler, wherein the second coupler is movable relative to the second coupler portion between a second carried position with the second coupler carried by the second coupler portion and a second coupled position with the second coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the second coupling position, the first coupler portion configured to be positioned closer than the second coupler portion to the first coupling position of the body of the recipient.

17. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
a first engagement member depending from the support member at the first coupler portion and configured to removably engage the first coupler; and
a second engagement member depending from the support member at the second coupler portion and configured to removably engage the second coupler.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising the first and second couplers.

19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
the first coupler, wherein the first coupler has an electrical contact configured to be connected to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient;
and

a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member, the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the first coupler is moved from the first carried position to the first coupled position.

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising the first coupler and wherein the first coupler is configured to transmit electrical signals to the recipient when the first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

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23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the support member includes a cavity at the first coupler portion positioned to receive at least a portion of the first coupler.

24. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the support member includes a column at the first coupler portion positioned to be received in an aperture of the first coupler.

25. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

26. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first and second coupler portions are two of a larger plurality of coupler portions, wherein each of the larger plurality of coupler portions are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler locations defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

27. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a recipient during at least one of therapy administration and recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising:

a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient proximate to a coupling region, the support member having a first engagement portion configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position on the body of the recipient and a second engagement portion configured to be positioned proximate to a second coupling position on the body of the recipient;

a first engagement member configured to removably carry a first coupler at the first engagement portion of the support member, wherein the first coupler is movable relative to the first coupler portion between a first attached position with the first coupler carried by the first engagement member and a first coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position; and

a second engagement member configured to removably carry a second coupler at the second engagement portion of the support member, wherein the second coupler is movable relative to the second coupler portion between a second attached position with the second coupler carried by the second engagement member and a second coupled position with the second coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the second coupling position, the first engagement member configured to be positioned closer than the second engagement member to the first coupling position.

28. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

the first coupler, wherein the first coupler has an electrical contact configured to be connected to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient; and

a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member, the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the first coupler is moved from the first attached position to the first coupled position.

29. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member has a central axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis, further wherein the first and second engagement members are positioned on one of the elongated portions, with the first engagement member including a post positioned on the first side of the central axis and the second engagement member including a post positioned on the second side of the central axis.

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

32. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:
the first coupler; and

a flexible link connected between the first coupler and the support member, the link remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the first coupler is moved from the first attached position to the first coupled position.

33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the link includes an electrical cable configured to be coupled to a source of electrical pulses to transmit percutaneous electrical stimulation pulses to the first coupler.

34. (Withdrawn)

35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member includes a column projecting away from the support member, the column configured to be received in an aperture of the first coupler.

37. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member is flexible and resilient to conform to a surface of the body.

38. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

39. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member has a cavity positioned to receive at least a portion of the first coupler.

40. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein an arrangement of the first and second engagement members corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the first and second coupling positions.

41. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement members, wherein each of the larger plurality of engagement members are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

42. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second coupling positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions located on first and second sides of a central axis of the support member, and wherein the first and second engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement members arranged in two rows on opposite sides of the central axis.

43. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second coupling positions each have a longitudinal location along a body longitudinal axis and a lateral location transverse to the body longitudinal axis, and wherein the support member has a central support member axis generally aligned with the body longitudinal axis during operation, further wherein the first engagement member has a longitudinal location and a lateral location relative to the central support member axis that correspond to the longitudinal and lateral locations of the first coupling position relative to the body longitudinal axis, still further wherein the second engagement member has a longitudinal location and a lateral location relative to the central support member axis that correspond to the longitudinal and lateral locations of the second coupling position relative to the body longitudinal axis.

44. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising the first and second couplers.

45. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least a portion of the first engagement member has a first color and at least a portion of the second engagement member has a second color different than the first color.

46. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member has a visual indicator corresponding to the first coupling position.

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47. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising the first coupler and wherein the first coupler includes an electrical connector positioned for making electrical contact with a percutaneous probe at the first coupling position.

48. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member includes a flexible, bio-compatible material.

49. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member includes a generally flat, rigid material.

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50. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member is configured to carry the first coupler including an electrically conductive clamp.

51. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member is configured to carry the first coupler including an electrically conductive alligator clip.

52. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member is configured to carry the first coupler including an actuator tool configured to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

53. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting a plurality of percutaneous probe couplers in position for removable coupling to a recipient, comprising:

a flexible support member configured to rest on a body of a recipient and conform to a curvature of the body proximate to a location where the couplers are to be coupled to the body;

a first engagement member depending from the support member and configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position on the body;

a first coupler removably engaged with the first engagement member;

a first electrical cable attached between the first coupler and the support member;

a second engagement member depending from the support member and configured to be positioned proximate to a second coupling position on the body of the recipient, the first engagement member configured to be positioned closer than the second engagement member to the first coupling position, the second engagement member configured to be positioned closer than the first engagement member to the second coupling position;

a second coupler removably engaged with the second engagement member; and

a second electrical cable attached between the second coupler and the support member.

54. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first electrical cable is attached to the support member at a first attachment location, and the second electrical cable is attached to the support member at a second attachment location, and further wherein the first and second electrical cables are bundled together within the support member and exit the support member adjacent to each other at a third attachment location.

55. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator tool configured to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

56. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive clamp.

57. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive alligator clip.

58. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first and second electrical cables have approximately the same length.

59. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first electrical cable has a first length and the second electrical cable has a second length different than the first length.

60. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the support member has a central axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis, further wherein the first and second engagement members are positioned on one of the elongated portions, with the first engagement member including a column positioned on the first side of the central axis and the second engagement member including a column positioned on the second side of the central axis.

61. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and wherein the first engagement member includes a column projecting away from the support member and positioned to be received in the aperture of the first coupler.

62. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

63. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein an arrangement of the first and second engagement members corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the first and second coupling positions.

64. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first and second engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement members, wherein each of the larger plurality of engagement members are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

65. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting a plurality of percutaneous probe couplers in position for removable coupling to a recipient, comprising:

a flexible support member configured to rest on a body of a recipient and conform to a curvature of the body proximate to a coupling location where the couplers are to be coupled to the body, the support member having a central axis;

a first engagement member depending from the support member and positioned on a first side of the central axis, the first engagement member configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position on the body of the recipient, the first coupling position located on the first side of the central axis;

a first coupler removably engaged with the first engagement member;

a first electrical cable attached between the first coupler and the support member;

a second engagement member depending from the support member and positioned on a second side of the central axis opposite the first side of the central axis, the second engagement member configured to be positioned proximate to a second

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coupling position on the body of the recipient, the second coupling position located on the second side of the central axis;

a second coupler removably engaged with the second engagement member; and

a second electrical cable attached between the second coupler and the support member.

66. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first electrical cable is attached to the support member at a first attachment location, and the second electrical cable is attached to the support member at a second attachment location, and further wherein the first and second electrical cables are bundled together within the support member and exit the support member adjacent to each other at a third attachment location.

67. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator tool configured to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

68. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive clamp.

69. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive alligator clip.

70. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first and second electrical cables have approximately the same length.

71. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first electrical cable has a first length and the second electrical cable has a second length different than the first length.

72. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the support member has a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis.

73. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and wherein the first engagement member includes a post projecting away from the support member and positioned to be received in the aperture of the first coupler.

74. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

75. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein an arrangement of the first and second engagement members corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the first and second coupling positions.

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76. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first and second engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement members, wherein each of the larger plurality of engagement members are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

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77. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting a plurality of percutaneous probe couplers in position for removable coupling to a recipient, comprising:

a flexible support member configured to rest on a back of a recipient and conform to a curvature of the back proximate to a coupling region of the back, the

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 support member having a central axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis and a third elongated portion between the first and second elongated portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis;

five pairs of engagement posts depending from the support member, engagement posts of a first pair positioned on opposite sides of the central axis toward an end of the first elongated portion, engagement posts of a second pair positioned at opposite ends of the second elongated portion, engagement posts of a third pair positioned at opposite ends of the third elongated portion, engagement posts of a fourth pair positioned on opposite sides of the central axis between the first and second pair, and engagement posts of a fifth pair positioned on opposite sides of the central axis between the second and third pair;

five pairs of couplers, each coupler having an aperture with aperture walls removably engaged with one of the engagement posts; and

five pairs of electrical cables with each electrical cable attached between one of the couplers and the support member.

78. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein each cable enters the support member at a separate entry point and exits the support member at a common exit point, the cables being bundled together external to the exit point and connected to a single connector.

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 79. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator tool configured to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

80. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive clamp.

81. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive alligator clip.

82. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the support member is configured to rest on the back of the recipient proximate to the coupling region having a plurality of coupling positions, and wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

83. (Amended) An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a recipient during at least one of therapy administration and recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising:

support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support member having a first coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a first coupling position of the body of the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler portion configured to be positioned proximate to a second coupling position of the body of the recipient, the first coupler portion configured to be positioned closer than the second coupler portion to the first coupling position on the body of the recipient;

a first coupler configured to be operatively coupled to the body and removably supported at the first coupler portion;

a second coupler configured to be operatively coupled to the body and removably supported at the second coupler portion;

a recipient care unit configured to deliver therapy, monitor a condition of the recipient, or delivery therapy and monitor a condition of the recipient; and

a first link between the care unit and the first coupler and a second link between the care unit and the second coupler.

84. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the recipient care unit includes a source of electrical current.

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87. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the support member between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the support member at the first coupler location, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged from the first coupler location, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the first coupler having an electrical contact for connecting to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient, and further wherein the first link includes a flexible electrical cable.

88. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the support member has a central axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis, further wherein the first and second coupler locations are positioned on one of the elongated portions, with the first coupler location including a post positioned on the first side of the central axis and the second coupler location including a post positioned on the second side of the central axis.

89. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and wherein the support member includes a post at the first coupler location positioned to be received in the aperture of the first coupler.

90. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the support member is flexible and resilient to conform to a surface of the body.

91. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the support member is shaped to rest on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

92. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein an arrangement of the first and second coupler locations corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the first and second coupling positions.

a21 93. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the first and second coupler portions are two of a larger plurality of coupler portions, wherein each of the larger plurality of coupler portions are configured to be positioned proximate to a corresponding one of a larger plurality of coupling positions including the first and second coupling positions, and further wherein an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler locations defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

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